



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Permit for Aerojet Open Burn Complex Denied

Sacramento-- Citing a Focused Environmental Impact Report that concluded that operation of Aerojet's Open Burn Complex would result in more particulate matter entering the air than is acceptable under California law, the state Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control today announced denial of a permit for the treatment complex.

The Open Burn Complex had significant impact on air quality because it exceeded the California PM 10 (particulate that is less than 10 microns in diameter) standard for a twenty-four hour period and for a one-year period.

The Open Burn Complex is part of Aerojet General Corporation's 8,500 acre site in Rancho Cordova. The Open Burn Complex is used to burn rocket propellant, explosive and pyrotechnic (PEP) waste materials generated at the Aerojet facility during the manufacturing and refurbishment of solid rocket propulsion systems. The materials to be burned were placed on one of 17 sand-covered, reinforced concrete containment pads. These pads were designated by the type of waste to ensure that compatible wastes were burned together. Open burning of PEP materials were subject to meteorological conditions. PEP wastes were ignited electronically by remote-control.

The Focused EIR also concluded that the Open Burn Complex had a significant environmental impact to special status amphibian and reptile species. These include the foothill yellow-legged frog, western spadefoot, California tiger salamanders, California red-legged frog, and the western pond turtle.

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DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.